THE WHITE MOUNTAINS EPIC CONTINUES WITH
THE POOL OF FIRE
GIANT METAL MONSTERS FROM OUTER SPACE CALLED TRIPODS ROAM THE EARTH. THEY CONTROL THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE BY FITTING EVERY HUMAN WITH A METAL MESH CAP AS HE BECOMES A TEEN-AGER. BUT A FEW HUMANS, INCLUDING WILL AND HIS COUSIN HENRY, HAVE ESCAPED CAPPING AND HIDE IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF EUROPE. THERE, FREE MEN ARE PLANNING TO REBEL AGAINST THE TRIPODS AND REGAIN CONTROL OF EARTH.
TO DO SO, THOUGH, THEY NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR ENEMIES. TO THAT END, WILL AND ANOTHER FREEDOM FIGHTER, FRITZ, GO TO SERVE AS SLAVES IN ONE OF THE TRIPODS' DOMED CITIES. INSIDE THE CITY, THE PAIR DISCOVER THE TRUE MASTERS ARE THREE-EYED, THREE-LEGGED REPTILE-LIKE CREATURES FROM A DISTANT STAR WHO HAVE MORE PLANS FOR PLANET EARTH.
WILL MANAGES TO ESCAPE THE DOMED CITY BY PLUNGING INTO A DRAIN THAT LEADS TO A RIVER. HE IS RESCUED BY JEAN-PAUL, ANOTHER FREEDOM FIGHTER WHOSE NICKNAME IS BEANPOLE. THE TWO BOYS WAIT FOR FRITZ TO ESCAPE, TOO, BUT WHEN HE DOES NOT EMERGE FROM THE RIVER AFTER MANY DAYS, THEY ARE FORCED TO RETURN TO THE MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT WITHOUT HIM.
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CHAPTER 1
WILL AND BEANPOLE RETURN TO FIND THE MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT ALMOST DESERTED. ONLY A FEW GUARDS REMAIN, WAITING TO LEAD THE TWO BOYS TO A NEW FORTRESS, A SERIES OF CAVES IN A HILLY COUNTRY TO THE EAST THAT IS FILLED WITH PINE WOODS.
NOW WILL, TELL US ABOUT THE TRIPODS' CITY.
THE TRIPODS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE MASTERS.

"WE CANNOT BREATHE THEIR ATMOSPHERE BENEATH THE DOME. . . ."
". . . AND IT WEIGHS US DOWN LIKE LEAD."
"THE MASTERS PLAN TO MAKE ALL THE EARTH LIKE THE DOMED CITY WHEN THEIR SHIPS ARRIVE FROM SPACE."

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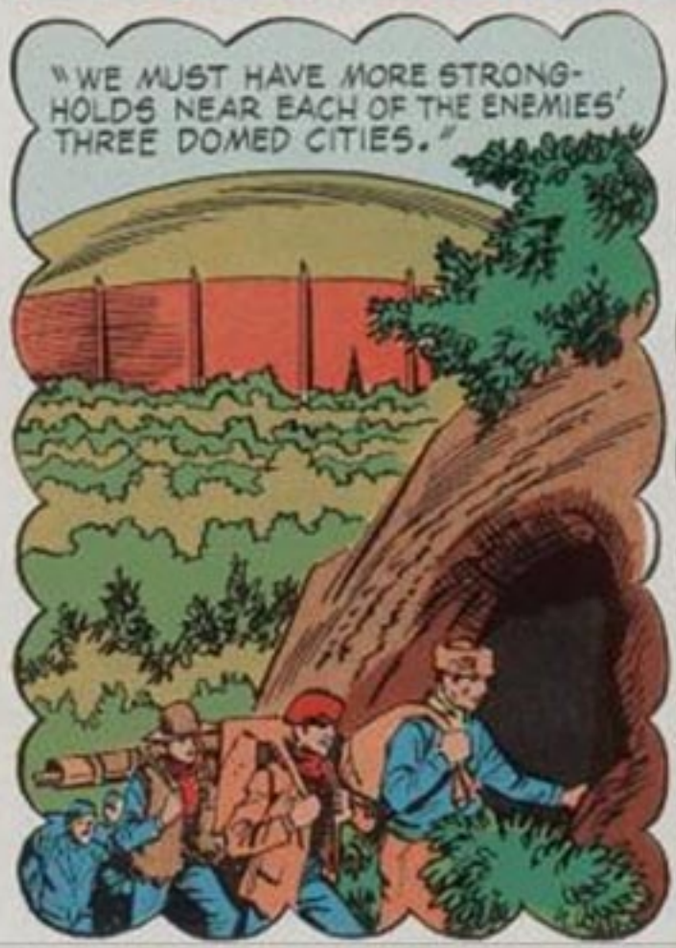
CHAPTER 2



WHAT YOU AND FRITZ DID WAS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE TO US, WILL.
MAYBE. BUT FRITZ DIDN'T COME BACK.
YES, THAT'S TOO BAD. BUT WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT YOU DID, WILL. AND WE CAN NOT WASTE ANY OF THE BRIEF TIME WE HAVE LEFT.
NOW, FOR YOUR NEXT TASK, YOU WILL TRAVEL TO THE SOUTH AND EAST POSING AS A TRADER. YOU WILL WIN NEW RECRUITS AND REPORT BACK HERE.
YES, SIR.
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CHAPTER 3

WHERE DO YOU GO NEXT, HENRY?
I'M GOING TO CROSS THE OCEAN IN A SHIP AND GO TO A PLACE CALLED AMERICA.
AND I'M HEADED FOR THE SECRET RESEARCH BASE.
YES, AND I'M-- SIGH-- TO BE DISGUISED AS A TRADER -- SIGH!
GOOD BYE, HENRY!
GOOD LUCK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WILL? STILL THINKING OF FRITZ?
I'M AFRAID SO, SIR.
REMORSE AND DESPONDENCY CAN BE CRIPPLING. I THINK WE'D BETTER DELAY YOUR DEPARTURE AS A TRADER FOR A WHILE.
BUT, BUT... BUT, SIR!

MANY DAYS LATER.
WILL, I THINK I HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU. MANY TRADERS TRAVEL IN PAIRS, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO HAVE A COMPANION.
I'LL DO WELL ENOUGH ON MY OWN, SIR.
BUT IF IT'S A QUESTION OF GOING WITH ANOTHER OR STAYING HERE, WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, SIR.
GOOD. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET YOUR COMPANION NOW?
FRITZ! FRITZ, IS THAT REALLY YOU?
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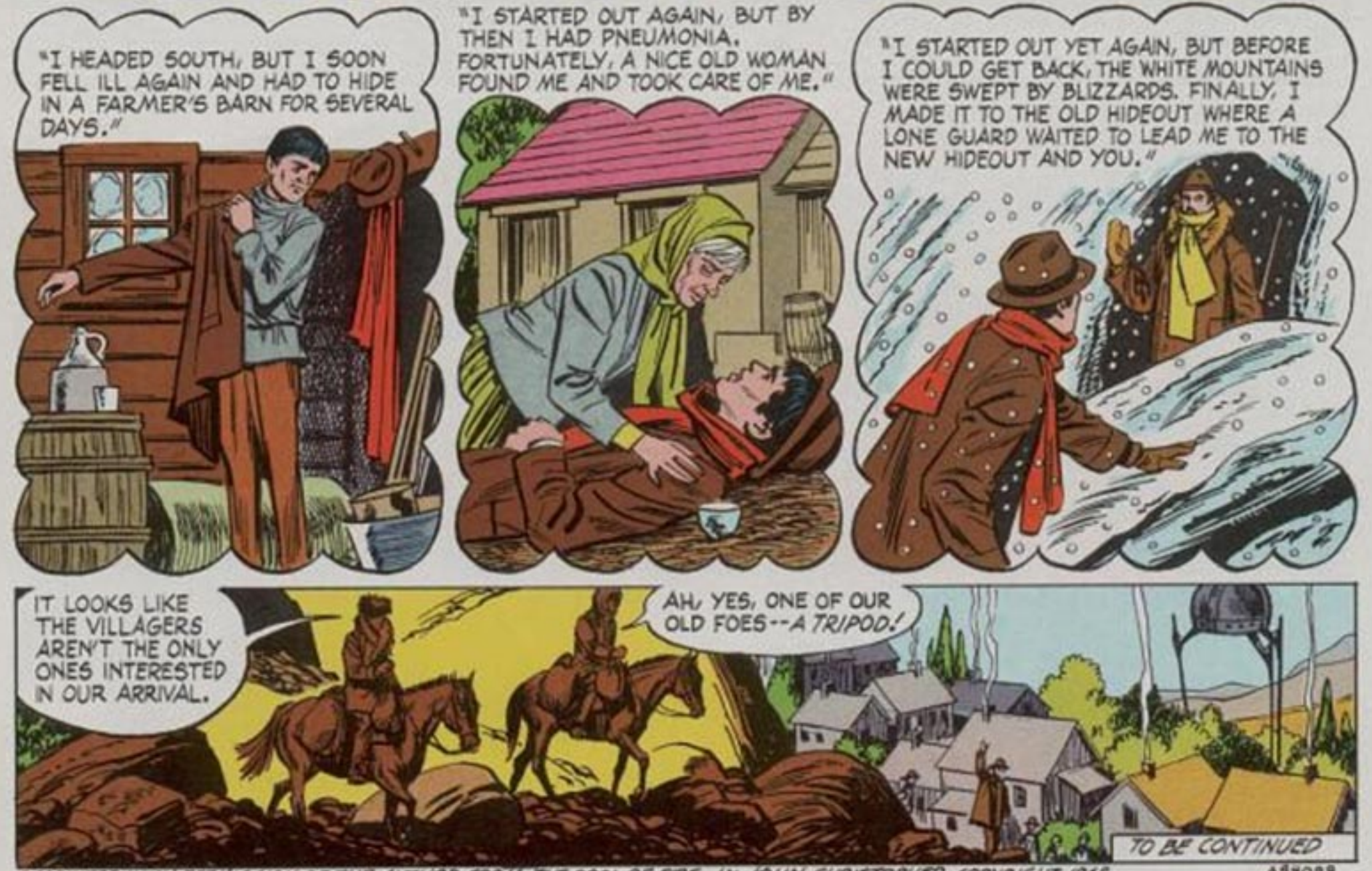
CHAPTER 4

FRITZ, YOU'RE BACK FROM THE CITY OF GOLD AND LEAD!
YES, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT AS WE TRAVEL. LET'S GET GOING.
I MEANT TO FOLLOW YOU TO FREEDOM, BUT I WAS SO WEAK, I COLLAPSED SOON AFTER YOU LEFT.
"THEY TOOK ME TO THE SLAVES' HOSPITAL. I SOON REALIZED IT WAS A GOOD PLACE TO STAY AND BUILD MY STRENGTH."
"I PRETENDED AS IF I WERE GROWING WEAKER INSTEAD OF STRONGER, AND I TOLD EVERY-ONE THAT IF I COULD NO LONGER SERVE MY MASTER, I MUST GO TO THE PLACE OF HAPPY RELEASE TO DIE."
"I LEFT THE HOSPITAL LATE IN THE DAY AND HID TILL IT WAS DARK. THEN I JUMPED IN THE DRAIN AND SWAM TO FREEDOM."


"I HEADED SOUTH, BUT I SOON FELL ILL AGAIN AND HAD TO HIDE IN A FARMER'S BARN FOR SEVERAL DAYS."
"I STARTED OUT AGAIN, BUT BY THEN I HAD PNEUMONIA. FORTUNATELY, A NICE OLD WOMAN FOUND ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME."
"I STARTED OUT YET AGAIN, BUT BEFORE I COULD GET BACK, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS WERE SWEPT BY BLIZZARDS. FINALLY, I MADE IT TO THE OLD HIDEOUT WHERE A LONE GUARD WAITED TO LEAD ME TO THE NEW HIDEOUT AND YOU."
IT LOOKS LIKE THE VILLAGERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES INTERESTED IN OUR ARRIVAL.
AH, YES, ONE OF OUR OLD FOES--A TRIPOD!
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CHAPTER 5

IF WE ACT AS IF WE BELONG HERE, IT WON'T BOTHER US.
WELCOME! WELCOME! WE'RE ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE TRADERS.
YES, YOU CAN LODGE AT MY HOUSE TONIGHT. MARKET DAY IS TOMORROW.

THESE PEOPLE ARE SO FRIENDLY. I HATE SNEAKING BEHIND THEIR BACKS TO GET RECRUITS.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, WILL! THINK OF WHAT'S AT STAKE.

AH! I SEE YOU ARE NOT CAPPED. ARE YOU GOING TO BE SOON?
WHY, UH, YES. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OH, WE HAVE LEARNED MANY THINGS IN OUR TRAVELS. COME TO OUR CAMP TONIGHT, AND WE'LL TELL YOU SOME OF THEM.

YOU MUST GET OTHER UNCAPPED BOYS AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE SPRING CAPPINGS.
HERE, USE THESE TRAINED PIGEONS TO SEND AND RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM OTHER REBELS NEAR HERE.

SOMETHING'S STRANGE, WILL. WE HAVEN'T SEEN A TRIPOD IN DAYS. SURELY THEY MUST PATROL HERE TOO.
LOOK! MAYBE THEY DON'T NEED TO--NOT IF THE PEOPLE HERE WORSHIP THEM AS GODS!

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CHAPTER 6
AFTER MANY DAYS IN THE DESERT SUN.
LOOK, AN OASIS!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID THEY HAVE NO ANIMALS TO SPARE HERE. WE'LL HAVE TO GET SOME WATER AND MOVE ON.
THREE DAYS LATER.
AT LAST, A VILLAGE!
FRITZ, LOOK AT THOSE STRANGE ANIMALS!
WHY ARE YOU FROWNING, WILL?
IN THIS LAND, ONLY RICH MEN OWN HORSES, AND NO ONE USES THEM AS BEASTS OF BURDEN.

NO, WILL. IT WILL ONLY ATTRACT ATTENTION WE DON'T WANT, AND IT MAY NOT BE SUITED TO THE COLD WEATHER IN THE NORTH.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THOSE DONKEYS ARE MORE PRACTICAL.
HERE WE ARE, AT THE RIVER AT THE EDGE OF THE MAP.
AT THE EDGE? THAT MEANS WE HAVE COME AS FAR AS WE'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO, AND WE CAN TURN TOWARD HOME.
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CHAPTER 7

AFTER BEING GONE ALMOST A YEAR, WILL AND FRITZ RETURN TO THE HILL COUNTRY HIDEOUT.

HOME AT LAST.

HELLO! YOU MUST BE WILL AND FRITZ. I'M OTTO, THE NEW COMMANDER HERE. COME IN AND REST.

AFTER RESTING A FEW DAYS, WILL AND FRITZ RIDE TWO DAYS TO REACH THEIR NEW POST.

LOOK, WILL, THAT CASTLE MUST BE OUR NEW POST. BUT IT LOOKS SO DESERTED.

IS IT? I SEE A LIGHT.

BE CAREFUL, WILL.

I ...YIKES!! BEANPOLE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH. BUT FIRST COME IN AND EAT AND REST.

THE NEXT MORNING AT BREAKFAST.

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU, BEANPOLE. THAT'S IT! YOU HAVE NEW...NEW...

THEY'RE CALLED SPECTACLES, WILL. WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, I LEARNED THAT AND A LOT MORE. COME, I'LL SHOW YOU.

AN EXPEDITION WENT TO THE RUINS OF ONE OF THE GREAT CITIES. THERE THEY FOUND A LIBRARY FILLED WITH THOUSANDS OF THESE BOOKS.

FROM THE BOOKS, WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE BULBS GLOW WITH LIGHT BY USING POWER CALLED ELECTRICITY. WE'VE ALSO LEARNED TO GET HEAT FROM WIRES AND HOW TO MAKE THE ARTIFICIAL STONE THE ANCIENTS CALLED CONCRETE. WE'VE LEARNED MANY THINGS.
I'LL SHOW YOU MORE LATER. BUT NOW WE MUST GO TO THE MEETING.
JULIUS!
WELCOME, FRITZ AND WILL. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK WITH US AGAIN.
I HAVE CALLED YOU TOGETHER BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN DECIDED WE ARE GOING TO TOPPLE A TRIPOD AND CAPTURE ONE OF THE MASTERS-- ALIVE!
ALIVE?!
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CHAPTER 8

BUT, SIR, IF YOU TAKE A MASTER OUT OF A TRIPOD, HE WILL CHOKE, WITHIN SECONDS, IN OUR ATMOSPHERE.
NO. WE HAVE LEARNED TO MAKE THE GREEN AIR THEY BREATHE, AND A SEALED ROOM IS READY HERE WITH AN AIR LOCK THAT WILL LET US PASS IN AND OUT.

BUT IF YOU WRECK A TRIPOD, OTHERS WILL COME HERE LOOKING FOR IT AND DESTROY THE CASTLE.
WE WILL CAPTURE THE MASTER ABOUT 50 MILES NORTH OF HERE, PUT HIM IN A SEALED BOX AND BRING HIM BACK BY BOAT.

HOW WILL YOU GET HIM IN THE BOX?
WE KNOW A PLACE WHERE A TRIPOD PASSES EVERY NINE DAYS. BETWEEN PASSINGS WE WILL DIG A HOLE THERE AND COVER IT OVER. THE TRIPOD WILL TRIP; WE'LL BRING THE MASTER OUT AND GET A BREATHING MASK ON HIM.

BUT THEY CAN TALK WITH EACH OTHER USING INVISIBLE RAYS.
OUR SCIENTISTS KNOW ALL ABOUT THOSE RAYS NOW. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.

A WEEK LATER.
BEANPOLE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'RE LEAVING FOR THE AMBUSH CAMP TODAY.
THERE IT GOES.
TIME TO START DIGGING THE HOLE.
NINE DAYS LATER.
HERE IT COMES.
EVERYONE TO THE HIDING PLACES!

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CHAPTER 9

BUT HOW?
THEY ARE CURIOUS ABOUT STRANGE THINGS. IF SOMEONE COULD GET THE ATTENTION OF THE TRIPOD AND LEAD IT INTO THE TRAP -- THAT MIGHT WORK.
BUT HOW COULD SOMEONE STAY OUT OF ITS CLUTCHES LONG ENOUGH TO DO THAT?
HE WOULD NEED TO BE ON HORSEBACK.
BUT THEY SEE MEN ON HORSEBACK EVERY DAY. THAT'S NOT SO CURIOUS.
YES, BUT A GREEN MAN ON A GREEN HORSE WOULD BE. GREEN IS THE COLOR OF THE MASTERS AFTER ALL.
I VOLUNTEER TO GO, SIR, ON MY HORSE.
THE TRIPOD MAKES ANOTHER PASS.
GET READY, BOY. HERE IT COMES!
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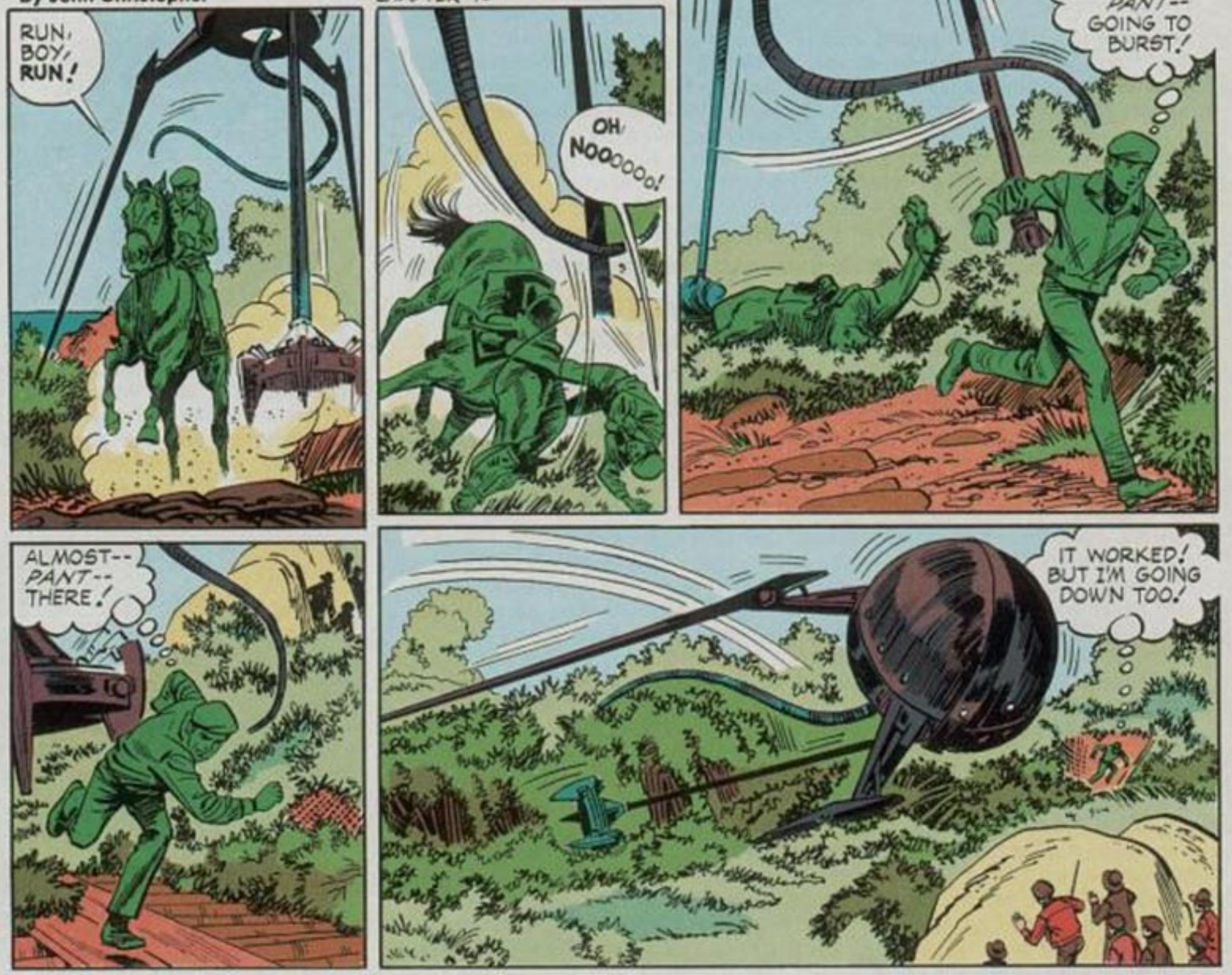
CHAPTER 10



GOOD JOB, WILL!
UH, YEAH... UH, THANKS.
WILL, YOU NEED TO WASH THE DYE OFF YOUR HORSE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BURY HIM, BUT WE MUST LEAVE AS FEW TRACES AS POSSIBLE.
DON'T BREATHE THE GREEN GAS!
GOODBYE, OL' BOY. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.
LOOK! ONE OF THEM IS ALIVE!
HURRY AND GET A BREATHING MASK ON HIM!

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CHAPTER II
QUICKLY! GET HIM INTO THE BOX WITH GREEN AIR.
ONCE THEY LOAD THE BOX, WE MUST SINK THE CART AND SCATTER THE HORSES. THEN WE MUST ROW THE BOAT TO THE CASTLE.
WILL AND FRITZ, MEET YOUR NEW COMMANDER.
ULF!
YOU TWO AGAIN, EH?

HE STILL HATES ME FROM THE TIME WE WE WERE ON HIS BARGE, THE ERLKÖNIG, ON THE WAY TO THE CITY OF GOLD AND LEAD.
PLEASE TRY TO GET ALONG WITH HIM, WILL.
WILL AND FRITZ REPORT FOR DUTY THE NEXT DAY.
YOU TWO WILL TEND THAT UGLY GREEN THING IN THERE. TAKE HIM SOME HOT WATER FOR HIS POOL.
HAS HE SAID ANYTHING TO YOU YET?
NOT A WORD.
A WEEK LATER.
HAS HE SPOKEN TO YOU YET?
NO.
PERHAPS WE CAUGHT A MASTER WHO CAN'T SPEAK.
WE'LL SEE. TOMORROW, DON'T TAKE IN ANY HOT WATER FOR HIS POOL.
THE NEXT DAY.
WHERE'S MY HOT WATER? I NEED TO BATHE.
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CHAPTER 12

SO YOU CAN SPEAK.
BRING ME WATER.
I WILL, BUT FIRST TELL ME YOUR NAME.
MY NAME IS RUKI. WHAT IS YOURS?
SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
RUKI IS NOT SO BAD FOR A MASTER, YET THEY KEEP POKING AT HIM AND ASKING HIM QUESTIONS. WHY?
YOU KNOW WHY, WILL. WE MUST FIND A WEAK SPOT IN THE MASTERS AND USE IT TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY DESTROY US.
I NEED SOME FRESH AIR. LET'S TALK OUTSIDE.
THE SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN PUTTING STRANGE THINGS IN RUKI'S FOOD. IT'S POINTLESS. HE SENSES THEM SOMEHOW AND WON'T EAT.
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY STOP. WE DON'T WANT TO HARM RUKI IF WE CAN HELP IT.

WILL, YOU LAZY LUMP! WHERE ARE YOU?
SIGH -- THERE'S ULF. I MUST GO, BEANPOLE.
YOU KNOW, WILL, IF GETTING ALONG WITH ULF IS TOO HARD, A TRANSFER CAN BE ARRANGED.
WILL, WHEN I CALL, I WANT YOU TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY!
THANKS! BUT I CAN PUT UP WITH HIM.
I MUST PUT UP WITH HIM TO PROVE TO JULIUS I CAN KEEP MY TEMPER AND OBEY ORDERS.
SO THERE YOU ARE! ATTEND TO THAT GREEN LIZARD YOU CALL A FRIEND. I'LL BE WITH HANS HERE. HE'S A TRUE FRIEND. HE BROUGHT ME A TREAT FROM GERMANY.
HE'S BEEN DRINKING. I'D BEST KEEP CLEAR OF HIM.
GROG
WHERE D'YA' THINK YOU'RE GOING?
TAKING THE PRISONER HIS MEAL, SIR.
GROG
WAIT! LET'S GIVE YOUR PAL SOMETHING TO LIVEN HIM UP.
RUKI WON'T EAT THIS, AND I'LL HAVE TO REPORT WHY. THEN ULF WILL BE IN TROUBLE, BUT IT WILL BE TROUBLE OF HIS OWN MAKING.

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CHAPTER 13

I'LL GO FOR HELP.
RUKI, PLEASE WAKE UP.
IT'S BEEN SIX HOURS SINCE HE ATE, AND THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF LIFE.
WAIT! HE'S COMING TO!
A FEW DAYS LATER.
HOW IS RUKI?
HE'S MUCH BETTER NOW.
COME ALONG, YOU TWO. JULIUS IS BACK, AND THE MEETING'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.
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CHAPTER 14

HELLO, MY FRIENDS. ANDRE, COMMANDING THE CASTLE SEEMS TO SUIT YOU. I HEAR THAT THOSE YOU LEAD HAVE FOUND A WEAKNESS IN THE MASTERS THAT MIGHT HELP US.
YES. RUKI REFUSES TO EAT FOOD THAT HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH. BUT WHEN GROG WAS POURED INTO HIS FOOD BY CHANCE, HE ATE THE MEAL WITHOUT HESITATING AND WAS PARALYZED IN LESS THAN A MINUTE.
HOW LONG DID HE TAKE TO RECOVER?
HE CAME TO IN SIX HOURS AND WAS WIDE AWAKE IN 12. BUT HE WAS CONFUSED AND STUMBLED ABOUT. IT TOOK HIM 24 HOURS TO FULLY RECOVER.
WHAT CAUSED THIS?
RUKI AND HIS KIND MUST REACT TO GROG MORE QUICKLY--AND TO SMALLER AMOUNTS OF IT--THAN MEN DO. ONLY A FEW DROPS WERE POURED INTO HIS FOOD. STILL, HE WASN'T ABLE TO SENSE IT.
THIS GIVES US A CHANCE AGAINST THE MASTERS. WE CAN PUT GROG IN THEIR DRINKING WATER.
BUT WE CAN'T DO IT FROM OUTSIDE THE DOMED CITIES.

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO SEND TEAMS INTO THE CITIES.
BUT NOT EVEN A TEAM CAN CARRY IN ENOUGH GROG TO PARALYZE A WHOLE CITY OF MASTERS!
THEN THE TEAM HAS GOT TO MAKE THE GROG AFTER THEY GET INSIDE.
YES. THAT PLAN MAY WORK. IT HAS TO WORK!
THEN IT'S AGREED. WE'LL PUT GROG IN THE MASTERS' DRINKING WATER.
THE MEETING IS OVER. WILL, SEE ME IN MY OFFICE IN FIVE MINUTES.
GROG
YOU WANT TO SEE ME, SIR?
YES, WILL. DO YOU WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE NEW PLAN?
YES, SIR!
I AM NOT SURE.... YOU STILL HAVE NOT MASTERED YOUR RASHNESS, AND YET--YOU HAVE BEEN LUCKY AND ARE A KIND OF MASCOT TO US. SO, YES, WILL, YOU MAY GO BACK TO THE CITY OF GOLD AND LEAD.

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CHAPTER 15

A YEAR HAS PASSED. AND THE UNCAPPED ARE HARD AT WORK ON THEIR PLAN TO DEFEAT THE MASTERS. MEN FROM DISTANT REBEL CAMPS ARRIVE AT THE CASTLE FOR BRIEFINGS.
THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT MAN THERE. SEE?
THAT'S BECAUSE THAT MAN IS HENRY. HENRY! HELLO, HENRY!

WILL! BEANPOLE! AND FRITZ! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN! MEET MY NEW FRIEND WALT.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO!
YOU TWO MUST BE TIRED. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO REST NOW, BUT YOU MUST JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON.
HELLO, WALT.

OVER THERE, LOOK!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY CAN STILL BE ALIVE.
COME INSIDE, AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN.
SO THAT'S HOW OXYGEN TANKS WORK, AND FLIPPERS LIKE THESE HELP YOU SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE.
I GET IT. WE'LL USE THIS EQUIPMENT TO SWIM BACK INTO THE DOMED CITIES.
RIGHT. SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE IN THE RIVERS THAT FLOW OUT OF THE CITIES.
THE NEXT MORNING.
GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE!
GOOD LUCK AGAINST THE MASTERS!
COME, WILL. WE LEAVE SOON OURSELVES.
LET'S MOVE OUT!
I WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU TO THE CITY OF GOLD AND LEAD.
YOU HAVE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO HERE.

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CHAPTER 16

WE'LL REST HERE AND GO IN TONIGHT.
I MUST NOT SHOW THESE NEWCOMERS I AM JUST AS AFRAID AS THEY ARE.
IT'S TIME. IN WE GO.
I HOPE THIS WORKS.
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN SWIMMING FOREVER. I WONDER IF THAT GREEN LIGHT AHEAD IS THE SURFACE OR JUST MY IMAGINATION PLAYING TRICKS ON ME?

WE'RE HERE AT LAST. I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW HEAVY THE AIR IS. ALREADY I FEEL LIKE LEAD WEIGHTS ARE DRAGGING ME DOWN.
AS SOON AS WILL SINKS THOSE TANKS, WE'LL BE OFF. REMEMBER, TALK ONLY AS A WARNING IN CASE OF DANGER.
OH, NO! TROUBLE ALREADY.
QUICKLY! OVER THERE! WE'LL HAVE TO RUN FOR IT!

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CHAPTER 17

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN USED IN A LONG TIME.
THEN IT WILL BE PERFECT AS A HIDEOUT FOR US.
LET'S CLEAR THIS CORNER AND SET UP OUR GROG-MAKING EQUIPMENT.

THIS IS AS MUCH AS WE CAN PUT TOGETHER WITH THE MATERIALS WE BROUGHT.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FORAGE THE CITY FOR MORE PARTS.
YES, BUT FIRST WE MUST GO IN SHIFTS TO ONE OF THE SLAVES' RESTING PLACES AND GET SOME SLEEP.

FRITZ AND TWO OTHERS RETURN FROM THEIR REST.

I CAN'T BELIEVE NO ONE HAS STOPPED US TO ASK US WHAT WE'RE DOING.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY THINK WE ARE SLAVES AND NOT ABLE TO DO ANYTHING NOT ORDERED BY ONE OF THEM.

IT'S TOO HOT IN HERE. WE CAN'T GET THE STEAM TO CONDENSE INTO GROG QUICKLY ENOUGH.
THEN YOU AND I MUST SEARCH FOR A COOLER HIDEOUT.
THAT NIGHT.
NO ONE IS HERE.
THEN LET'S MOVE ON AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND.
IT'S PITCH BLACK IN THERE.
I KNOW, BUT IT FEELS COOLER. HERE, TAKE MY HAND.
MY EYES HAVE GROWN USED TO THE DIM LIGHT.
GOOD. THEN WE'LL MOVE EVERYTHING HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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CHAPTER 18

SEVERAL DAYS LATER:
FRITZ, I CAN'T GO ON. I'M GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP.
GO ON. WE HAVE MADE ENOUGH GROG. SOON WE'LL POUR IT INTO THE MASTERS' DRINKING WATER AT THE SAME TIME TEAMS LIKE OURS ARE DOING THE SAME THING IN THE OTHER DOMED CITIES.

THE TIME HAS COME TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN:
NO ONE IS ABOUT. GO TO THE SLAVES' RESTING PLACE AND RETURN ONE BY ONE, HIDING IN THE BRANCHES WE LEFT AT THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE.
THE MASTERS WILL THINK THE SLAVES PRUNED THE BRANCHES FROM THE TREES NEARBY.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE MASTER IS HURT, MASTER.
DRAG THEM OUT OF SIGHT. THEN BRING THE GROG OUT OF THE TUNNEL.
BOY, WHAT IS THIS? WHERE ARE THE MASTERS?
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A-85145
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CHAPTER 19

THE MASTERS NEVER GO MORE THAN AN HOUR WITHOUT DRINKING WATER. YET NONE OF THEM IS REACTING TO THE GROG.
OUUCH!
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE!

IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING!
HURRAY! WE'VE DONE IT!
THE MASTERS ARE NO MORE! WE MUST GO TO THE PLACE OF HAPPY RELEASE TOGETHER.
NO, BROTHERS. THE MASTERS ARE ONLY ASLEEP. THEY WILL WAKE SOON AND NEED OUR CARE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
BECAUSE MY MASTER TOLD ME BEFORE IT HAPPENED.
FRITZ, THE MASTERS WILL NOT STAY PARALYZED LONG. WE MUST HURRY TO THE MACHINES THAT CONTROL THE CITY'S POWER AND DESTROY IT.
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CHAPTER 20
FRITZ AND HIS TEAM HAVE ARRIVED AT THE HEART OF THE CITY:
THE GROUND IS VIBRATING.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE POWER MACHINES LIE UNDERGROUND— BENEATH US— DOWN THAT RAMP.
INSIDE THE PYRAMID:
KEEP LOOKING FOR A WEAK SPOT.
WE AREN'T FINDING ANYTHING.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY THIS PYRAMID.
KEEP GOING! I THINK WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING.
ANOTHER PRYAMID! AND A THIRD ONE! IT'S GLOWING FROM WITHIN!
THIS IS IT. BUT HOW DO WE STOP IT?

NO, MARIO, WAIT!
HERE...
DON'T, MARIO, DON'T!
NO, CARLOS, WE CAN'T HELP HIM. BUT LOOK AT THE PIT!
THE LIGHT IS DYING!
WE MUST GET OUT. HOLD ON TO EACH OTHER.
DO YOU FEEL THAT? IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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THE POOL OF FIRE
By John Christopher
CHAPTER XI
THE EARTHQUAKE'S STOPPED.
AND THE LEADEN WEIGHT THAT DRAGGED US DOWN IS GONE. FEEL IT?
MY BODY'S LIGHT AGAIN. BUT I'M WEARY.
WE MUST GET OUT. HOLD ON TO EACH OTHER.
LOOK. THERE'S LIGHT. THAT MUST BE THE WAY OUT.
GREETINGS, FRIENDS.
HOW DO WE GET OUT OF THIS ... PLACE?
NO SLAVE WOULD ASK THAT. THE MASTERS' CONTROL IS BROKEN; THE CAPS ARE POWERLESS!
COME WITH US. FOLLOW FRITZ. HE'S OUR LEADER.

NOTHING HAPPENS WHEN I PRESS THE BUTTON.
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. ALL POWER FOR THE CITY CAME FROM THE POOL OF FIRE. THE DOOR WON'T WORK NOW.
THEN WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!
IF ONLY WE COULD GET UP THERE AND KNOCK A HOLE IN THE DOME...
THERE IS A WAY UP.
ONE OF THE MASTERS SHOWED ME A LEDGE THAT GOES AROUND THE WALL.
BUT WE CAN'T BREAK THE DOME. I DOUBT IF WE CAN EVEN SCRATCH IT.
WE'RE GOING TO TRY! NO OTHER WAY OUT BUT THE RIVER.
THE RIVER! WHY NOT?
WE CAN'T. WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE MASTERS CAN'T REGAIN CONTROL. WE MUST WRECK THE CITY.
THE NEW GUIDE LEADS THE WAY:
EACH OF YOU PULL UP ONE OF THESE TO USE AS A WALKING STICK.
I THOUGHT I SAW THAT MASTER MOVE. HURRY!
I MUST NOT LOOK DOWN, OR I'LL SURELY FALL TO MY DEATH.

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TO BE CONTINUED

THE POOL OF FIRE
By John Christopher
CHAPTER 22
AT TOP OF THE WALL:
IT'S NO USE. THE CRYSTAL DOME WON'T BREAK.
STOP AND THINK. THE MASTERS HAD TO INSPECT THE DOME'S OUTSIDE AS WELL AS ITS INSIDE. LET'S LOOK FOR WHERE THEY'D GO OUT.
THIS MUST BE THE WAY OUT! GIVE ME ROOM TO TURN THE WHEEL.
IT'S OPENING, FRITZ. LET SOMEONE ELSE TRY.
GOOD JOB, MY FRIEND. FOLLOW ME!

THE MASTERS MUST WEAR THOSE MASKS TO GO OUTSIDE. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
THE DOORS MUST LEAD OUTSIDE.
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
THE DOORS ARE ALIKE. WHY WON'T THIS ONE OPEN?
WAIT. I THINK I UNDERSTAND. CLOSE THE INNER DOOR.
NOW, LET'S TRY THIS ONE AGAIN.
YOU SEE, THE DOORS TO THE OUTSIDE WILL NOT OPEN UNLESS THE DOOR TO THE INSIDE IS SEALED. AND THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
THE MASTERS MUST HAVE MADE THE SYSTEM TO PREVENT MISTAKES.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!
IT'S GOOD TO BREATHE OUR AIR AGAIN!
IT'S GOOD TO BE FREE AGAIN!
BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET DOWN?!
A-R5302
TO BE CONTINUED.

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THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 23

SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET DOWN?
IF WE GET DOWN, WHAT ABOUT THE MASTERS?
UNLESS WE SHATTER THE DOME, THEY MAY RECOVER AND RESTART THE POOL OF FIRE.

IT HAS TO DO WITH PRESSURE. WE WEAKEN THE HINGES, THEN GET INSIDE AND CLOSE THIS DOOR.
I UNDERSTAND! THEN WE OPEN THE INNER DOOR...
...AND HAMMER THIS DOOR OPEN AGAIN FROM THE INSIDE. IT MIGHT WORK!

HAVING BROKEN ALL BUT THE TOP AND BOTTOM HINGES, THE BOYS HAVE GONE BACK INSIDE THE BLOCKHOUSE.
CAN I TRY, FRITZ?
YOU'RE NOT IN ANY SHAPE TO HELP, WILL. ALL RIGHT, CARLOS. YOU AND I ONCE MORE.
HARDER!
LOOK OUT!
GET DOWN!
CRACK
STAY DOWN! STAY DOWN!
WHOOOOSH

THAT'S IT! THE MASTERS COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED.
WE CAN BREATHE AIR NOW. TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, FRITZ?
CARLOS, HE'S DOWN THERE. THE WIND PLUCKED HIM THROUGH THE DOOR. I TRIED TO HOLD HIM....
NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR CARLOS NOW. WE MUST GO BACK INTO THE CITY AND FIND FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT.
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A-85342
TO BE CONTINUED.

THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 24

I DO, WILL. THE POWER KILLED HIM. BUT THAT SWITCH WAS MEANT TO BE USED. THE FIRE DIED SLOWLY. IF IT ALSO STARTS SLOWLY THERE MIGHT BE NO DANGER UNTIL THE FIRE IS BURNING.

FRITZ AND WILL RETURN TO THE POOL OF FIRE PYRAMID.
COME NO FARTHER, WILL. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE OTHERS.

I'M ALL RIGHT. BUT NOTHING IS HAPPENING. IT'S A PITY. I HAD HOPED...
WAIT! LOOK! A FIRE IN THE PIT!
COME ON! WE MUST RETURN TO THE OTHERS. THE POWER IS WORKING AGAIN, AND WE HAVE MUCH TO DO.
FOLLOW ME TO THE ENTERING PLACE AND THE HALL OF TRIPODS.
YEA!
HURRAH!
LET'S GO!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE— AT LAST!

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THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 25

THESE TRIPODS WON'T BOTHER US ANYMORE. BUT I THOUGHT THE MASTERS INSIDE WOULD HAVE LASTED LONGER.
BUT THEY DIDN'T. LET'S GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.
HERE! IT'S THE DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE!

GOOD WORK! GOOD WORK!
WE CAN TAKE IT EASY NOW.
NO. THERE MAY BE COUNTERATTACKS. THE ATTACK FAILED ON THE CITY IN THE WEST, IN THE AMERICAS.
HENRY'S THERE!

AFTER RESTING, HENRY TELLS ABOUT THE FAILED ATTACK:
...AND THAT'S MY STORY. FROM THE START, NEARLY EVERYTHING WENT WRONG.
YOU HAD BAD LUCK. WE ALL NEEDED GOOD LUCK TO SUCCEED, AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT.
YES, BUT THE MASTERS STILL CONTROL THE WEST, AND IN ONLY A YEAR AND A HALF THEIR SHIPS WILL ARRIVE FROM THEIR HOME PLANET.
BEANPOLE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S PLANNED?
SOME. JULIUS IS GOING TO TELL US AT THE BANQUET TOMORROW.
AS YOU KNOW, OUR ANCESTORS HAD FLYING MACHINES. NOW WE HAVE FLYING MACHINES, AND WE'LL USE THEM TO FIGHT THE MASTERS IN THEIR LAST CITY.
YEA!
HURRAY!
HOW SOON DO WE START FLYING, SIR?
MEN ARE TRAINING ALREADY, WILL. YOU AND FRITZ HAVE DONE WELL AND EARNED A REST.
JULIUS SAYS WE HAVE TO STAY.
WELL, SMILE. MAKE THE BEST OF IT. WE'VE WORKED HARD. LET'S PLAY FOR AWHILE.
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TO BE CONTINUED

THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 26

WILL STILL POUTS WEEKS AFTER THE FLYING MACHINE PROJECT STARTS WITHOUT HIM:
JULIUS SAYS WE CAN TRY TO FLY THESE BALLOONS I'VE DESIGNED. DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG, WILL? HENRY AND FRITZ ARE.
I SUPPOSE SO.

JULIUS LOOKS OLD AND TIRED.
THE NEWS IS BAD, AS BAD AS IT CAN BE.
THE ATTACK ON THE THIRD CITY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT.
... THE ATTACK HAS FAILED UTTERLY.

BUT WHY?
WE THINK THE CREATURES USED AN INVISIBLE RAY THAT KILLED THE ELECTRICITY IN THE FLYING MACHINE ENGINES.
ALL BUT ONE FLYING MACHINE IS DESTROYED, AND IT DOESN'T WORK ANYWAY.
WELL, SIR?
WE ARE DOWN TO OUR LAST THROW. LET'S HOPE YOUR BALLOONS WILL PULL US THROUGH.
DO YOU KNOW HOW SOON WE ARE TO CROSS THE OCEAN?
NO. THERE ARE PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE.
TIME HAS COME TO CROSS THE OCEAN:
HENRY! WILL! YOU'LL GO ON THAT SHIP — THERE!
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THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 17

DRINK IT, WILL. IT WILL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING SEASICK. THERE'S BAD WEATHER AHEAD.
NO! IT SMELLS TERRIBLE. BESIDES, I'VE CROSSED THE SEA BEFORE.

HOW LONG TO OUR BASE?
SEVERAL DAYS.
AND THEN WE WAIT.
WE'LL DO A LOT OF WAITING — FOR A STRONG NORTHEAST WIND.
AFTER DAYS OF WAITING IN CAMP, WILL'S TEMPER FLARES:
WILL'S SO FULL OF HOT AIR, I DOUBT IF HE NEEDS A BALLOON TO GET ALOFT.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHY YOU.!
ENOUGH.! WILL, SEE ME IN MY TENT.!
SORRY. I'LL CONTROL MY TEMPER. GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE....
YOU HAVE BEEN SORRY BEFORE, WILL. ONE LAST CHANCE. ANY MORE TROUBLE, YOU'RE OUT — FOR GOOD.
THREE DAYS LATER:
WHAT DOES IT SAY, FRITZ?
THE WIND IS RIGHT. THE ATTACK IS TODAY.

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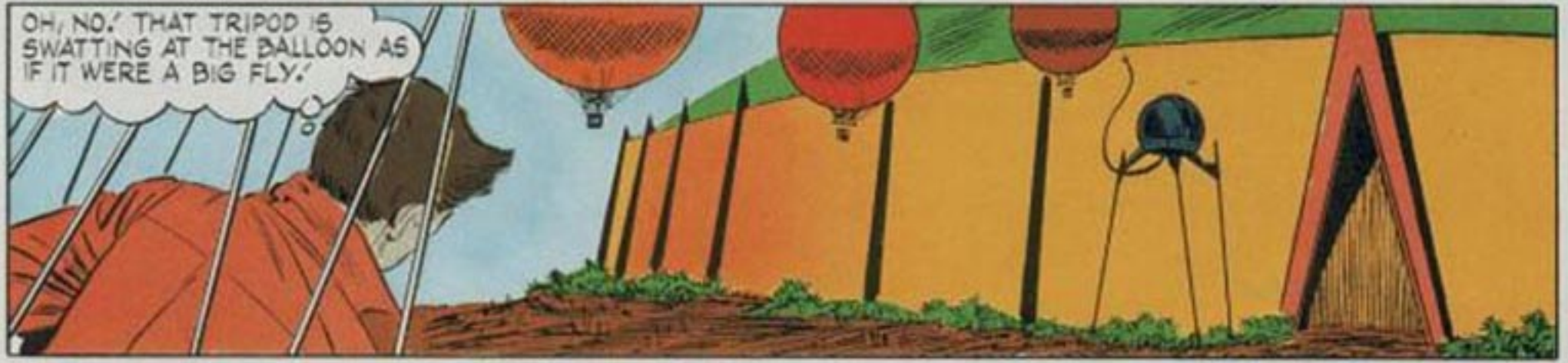
THE POOL OF FIRE

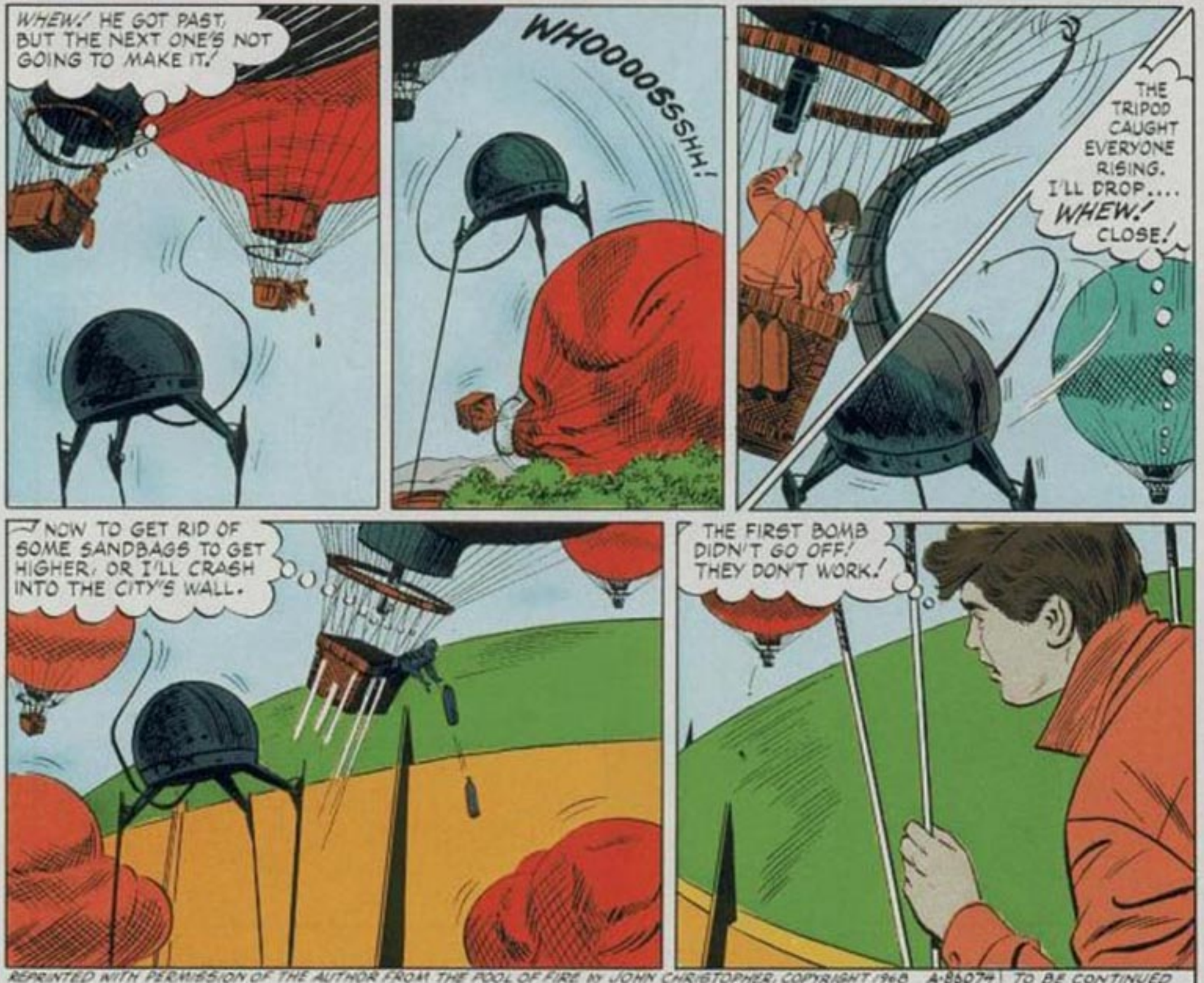
By John Christopher

CHAPTER 28

BALLOONS LEAVE TO ATTACK THE DOMED CITY:
GOOD LUCK, WILL!
MUST BE HARD ON BEANPOLE TO STAY BEHIND. BUT I'M GLAD TO BE UP HERE—AND DONE WITH WAITING.

SCORCHED EARTH—THE ZONE THE MASTERS DESTROYED IN DEFENSE AFTER THE ATTACK ON THE OTHER TWO CITIES.
WE MUST BE CLOSE.... THERE, THE LAST DOMED CITY!




WHEW! HE GOT PAST, BUT THE NEXT ONE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
WHOOOOSSSHH!
THE TRIPOD CAUGHT EVERYONE RISING. I'LL DROP.... WHEW! CLOSE!
NOW TO GET RID OF SOME SANDBAGS TO GET HIGHER, OR I'LL CRASH INTO THE CITY'S WALL.
THE FIRST BOMB DIDN'T GO OFF! THEY DON'T WORK!

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THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

CHAPTER 29

THE BOMBS HAVE EXPLODED, BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENING! MY BOMB BETTER WORK.
NOT EVEN A CRACK! THE RICOCHETING BOMBS MUST NOT BE TOUCHING THE SURFACE WHEN THEY GO OFF. ONLY ONE CANISTER LEFT. THE LAST BALLOON HAS TO SUCCEED!
HENRY'S PLANTING THE BOMB ON THE SURFACE. BUT HE'S LETTING HIS BALLOON GO!
HENRY! NO! STOP!
IT WORKED! BUT IT COST HENRY HIS LIFE.

GOOD-BYE, HENRY, AND THANK YOU FOR SAVING MANKIND FROM THE MASTERS!
MONTHS AFTER THE LAST DOMED CITY FALLS, THE MASTERS' SPACESHIP ARRIVES:
WHAT'S HAPPENED, FRITZ? WHAT DO YOU SEE, BEANPOLE?
THE SHIP DROPPED THREE BOMBS, ONE ON EACH OF THE RUINS OF THE THREE DOMED CITIES.
THAT'S ODD. BUT WHAT'S ODDER IS, THE SHIP'S HEADING BACK INTO SPACE.
AS THE SPACESHIP RETURNS TO SPACE, RUKI, THE LAST MASTER ON EARTH, KNOWS HE IS DOOMED:
AH-OOOOOOOH!
YAHOO! WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE WON!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I CAN! HURRAY FOR US! HURRAY FOR ALL OF US!
THREE YEARS LATER:
I'M SURE OF IT. THEY ARE THREE OF THE HEROES WHO DEFEATED THE MASTERS.
WILL! FRITZ! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
WELCOME DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF MAN
WILL, YOU'RE SO TAN! AND BEANPOLE! YOUR NEW GLASSES MAKE YOU LOOK SO...
OLD!? HA! HA! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BOTH. LET'S GET GOING!

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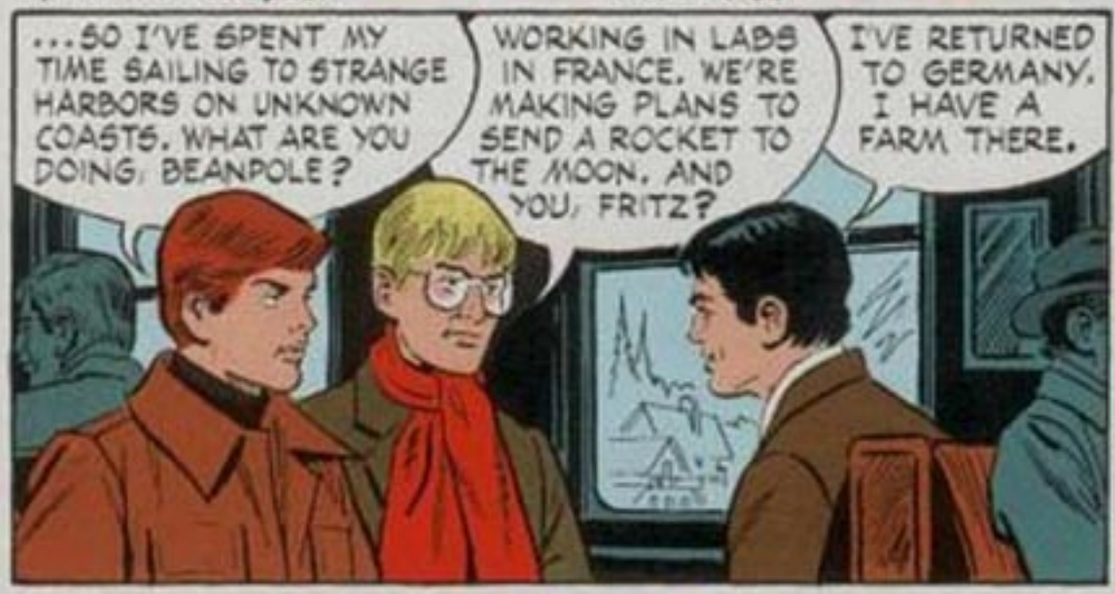
TO BE CONTINUED

THE POOL OF FIRE

By John Christopher

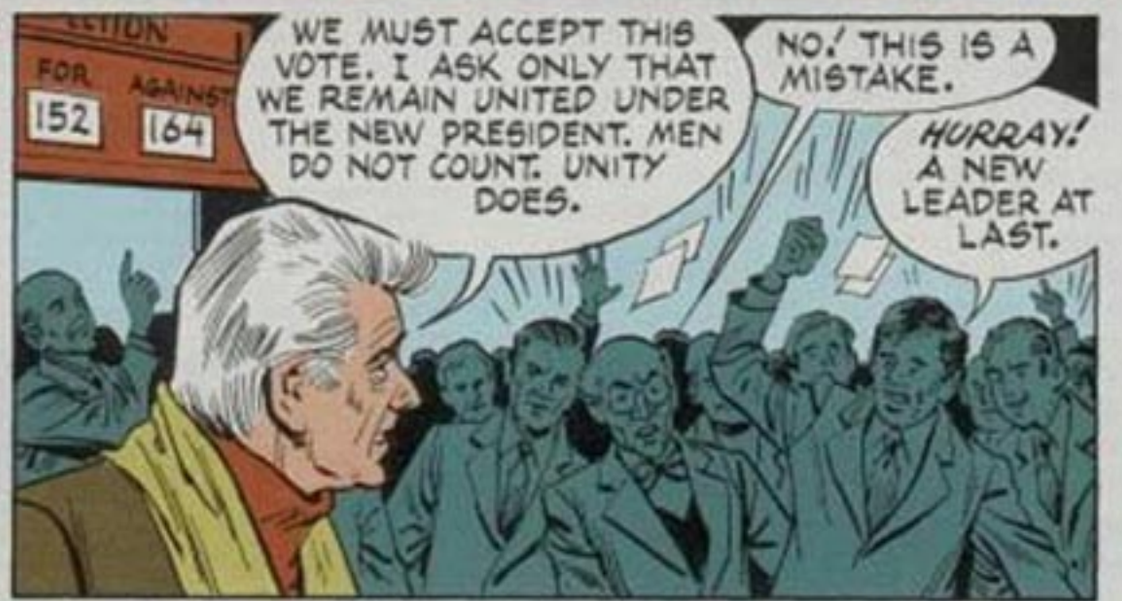
CHAPTER 30


...SO I'VE SPENT MY TIME SAILING TO STRANGE HARBORS ON UNKNOWN COASTS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BEANPOLE?
WORKING IN LABS IN FRANCE. WE'RE MAKING PLANS TO SEND A ROCKET TO THE MOON. AND YOU, FRITZ?
I'VE RETURNED TO GERMANY. I HAVE A FARM THERE.

IT WAS NICE OF JULIUS TO INVITE US TO THE CONFERENCE.
YES. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO; WE'RE NOT DELEGATES.
CONFERENCE OF MAN COUNCIL HALL THIS WAY

THERE'S JULIUS! HE LOOKS ALMOST THE SAME.
SHH! THE CONFERENCE HAS BEGUN.
I PROPOSE WE RE-ELECT JULIUS AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COUNCIL.
NO! IT'S TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP!

THEY CAN'T VOTE JULIUS OUT! IT'S UNTHINKABLE.
WE MUST KEEP JULIUS.
JULIUS SAVED US!
JULIUS HAS DONE GREAT THINGS, BUT IT'S TIME FOR A YOUNGER LEADER.
ORDER! IT'S TIME TO VOTE.


FOR 152
AGAINST 164
WE MUST ACCEPT THIS VOTE. I ASK ONLY THAT WE REMAIN UNITED UNDER THE NEW PRESIDENT. MEN DO NOT COUNT. UNITY DOES.
NO! THIS IS A MISTAKE.
HURRAY! A NEW LEADER AT LAST.

WE CAME IN GOOD FAITH. BUT THIS PETTY BICKERING, THIS ABUSE OF A GREAT MAN.... WE WITHDRAW FROM THIS FARCE OF A CONFERENCE.
THE AMERICANS ARE RIGHT. WE CHINESE GO TOO.
NO, WAIT!
THEY'RE RIGHT. THERE'LL BE NO UNITY.
LET'S LEAVE.
YES.
TO THINK ALL JULIUS' HARD WORK— AND OURS— HAS COME TO THIS FIGHTING.
IF HENRY HAD NOT DIED, HE MIGHT'VE UNITED US ALL. I'D HAVE HELPED, HAD HE WANTED ME.
I WILL GIVE UP MY FARMING. THERE ARE THINGS MORE IMPORTANT.
WE MUST UNITE THESE ANGRY NATIONS!
WE FOUGHT FOR LIBERTY FROM THE MASTERS, AND WON. WE CAN WIN WHAT JULIUS WANTS: UNITY. AND WITH UNITY COMES PEACE. ARE YOU READY FOR A NEW FIGHT, WILL?
YES. I'LL LEAVE MY SEAS AND ISLANDS.
THE END

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